

Bucks County

APRIL ★ 1968 ★ 25¢

# PANORAMA



Colonial Coffee House

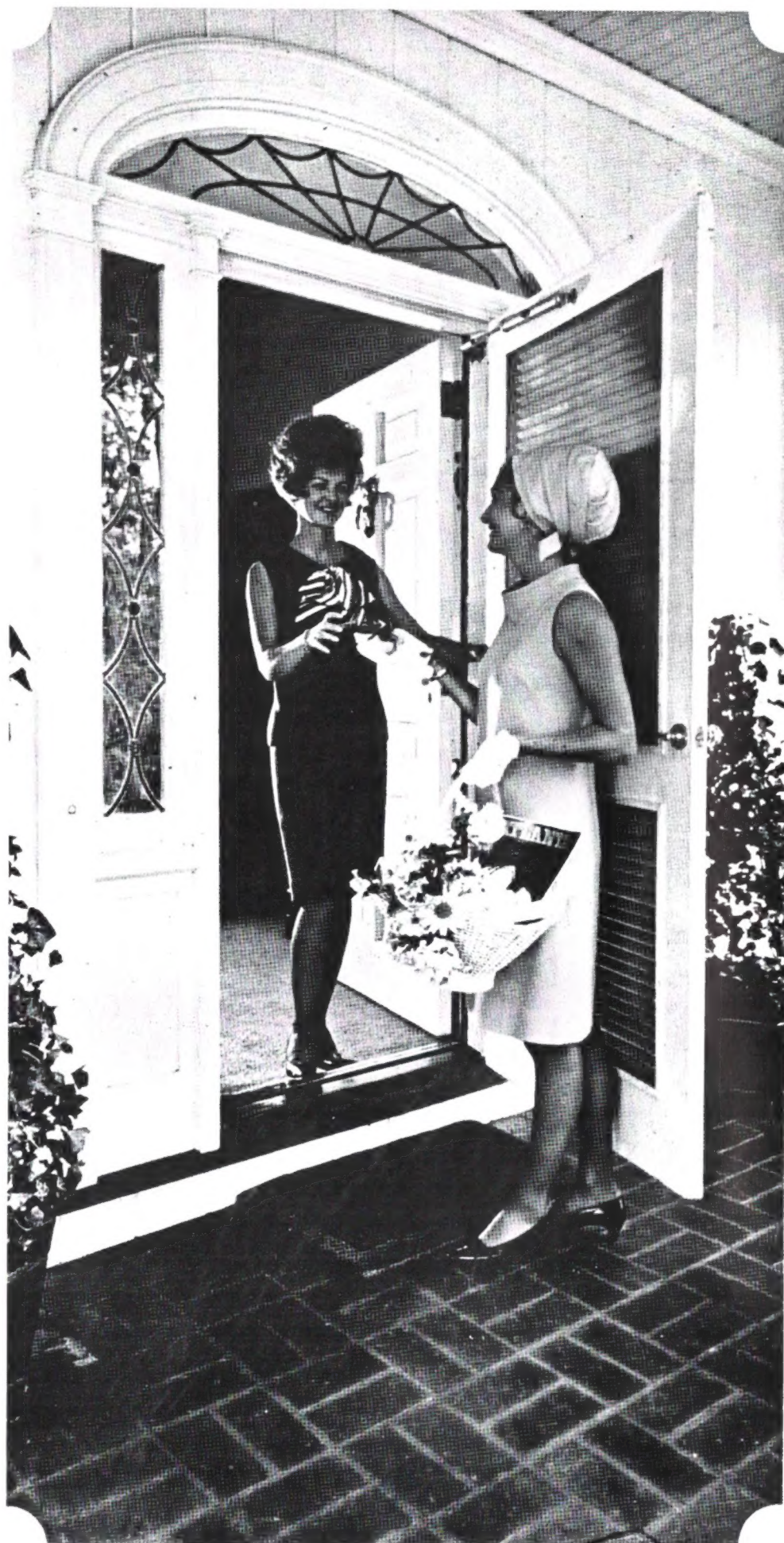


# There is only one...

The original—For almost forty years Welcome Wagon hostesses have been making calls on newcomers—whether they be within our own nation or in a foreign country. If you are a newcomer, know of one, or are a business man desiring representation in the newcomer's home.



PHONE  
234 - 4013





# Bucks County PANORAMA

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Calendar of Events	3
The Mercer Museum <i>Robert R. Macdonald</i>	4
The Blackrobes <i>Sister Mary Evangelist, S.B.S.</i>	8
The Song of the Grist Mills <i>Virginia Castleton Thomas</i>	10
Ringling Rocks Camping Grounds <i>Elmer Cull</i>	11
There's Good News About America	12
Saga of an Appliance Addict <i>June Stefanelli</i>	13
This Brew is Not New	14
Rambling with Russ <i>A. Russell Thomas</i>	16
Between Friends <i>Sheila Broderick</i>	18
Movie Panorama	24

## CALENDAR of EVENTS



April, 1968

- 1-30 **Fallsington** — Burges-Lippincott House, 18th Century architecture. Open to the public, Wed. through Sun. inc. holidays. 1-6 p.m.
- 1-30 **Morrisville** — William Penn's Manor House, Open to the public, daily and Sunday.
- 1-30 **New Hope** — Mule-drawn Barge Rides, daily except Monday. See Canal life as it was 125 years ago. 1 p.m., 3 p.m. 4:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.
- 1-30 **Pineville** — Wilmar Lapidary Art Museum. Open to the public Tues. thru Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sun. 1 to 5 p.m. 50 cents.
- 1 **Lahaska** — Cock 'N Bull. A house plant discussion, "Don't Let Your Plants Down" by Milton Kyle. 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- 1-5 **Doylestown** — Court House Art Exhibit, sponsored by B.C. Commissioners. Bucks County Administration Bldg. Jury Lounge. Open to the public, daily 8:30 to 4 p.m.
- 1-6 **New Hope** — The Bucks County Community College Theatre Co., presents "The Threepenny Opera" at the Playhouse. Curtain: Tues. 7:30, Fri. and Sat. 8:30, Sat. & Sun. 2 p.m. Wed. 10 p.m.
- 3 **New Hope** — 5th Annual Arts Festival, Sandy Bull, Guitarist. Solebury School, Rte. 202, 8 p.m.
- 3 **Doylestown** — Mercer Museum. Bus tour to Old Barracks and Trent House in Trenton. Leave Pine & Ashland Sts. 9 a.m.
- 6 **Langhorne** — 1968 Miss Bucks County Pageant, Neshaminy High School, Old Lincoln Hwy. 8:30
- 6 **Washington Crossing** — Children's Nature Walk, Preserve Hdqrs. Bldg. Bowman's Hill, 9 to 10.
- 6 & 9 **Washington Crossing** — Identification Herbaceous Plants, beginners. Preserve Hdqr. Bldg. 11 to 12:30.
- 7 **Washington Crossing** — Adult Nature Walk, Preserve Hdqr. Bldg. 2 to 3.
- 9 **New Hope** — The Academy of Vocal Arts will present "The Barber of Seville" 8:30 p.m. at Playhouse.
- 10 **Doylestown** — Mercer Museum. Lecture by Antiquarian Leon F. Stark, "Economics of Collecting." Pine and Ashland Sts. 10:30 a.m.
- 13 **Holicong** — 6th Annual Horse Show — Academy of Vocal Arts. Elm Grove Farm. Rte. 202. All day from 8:30 a.m. rain or shine. Refreshments available on grounds. Contributions.
- 14 **Palm Sunday** **Yardley** — Easter Flower Show, Main St. Yardley florist. 9 to 5:30. Open to the public.

(continued on page 26)



# THE MERCER MUSEUM, “...A STATELY HOUSE”

by

Robert R. Macdonald, Curator

Itinerant musicians traveling through rural America were a common sight in the early part of this century. It therefore, did not seem unusual when, on a late fall evening in 1916, one of these groups was making its way up Green Street in Doylestown. What was to distinguish this group from the others was that fate had arranged that this group should arrive at this place and time, and that it should pause here, and dedicate the unusual reinforced concrete building which was later to be called the Mercer Museum.

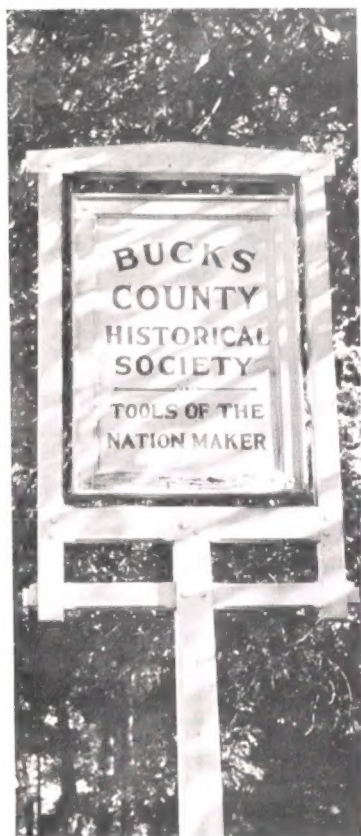
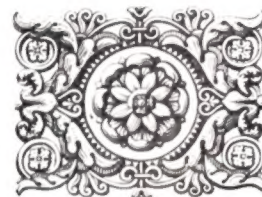
Dr. Henry Chapman Mercer, native of Doylestown, architect, builder, and benefactor of this building which (after his death in 1930) was to bear his name, recorded the event in the following way:

On Saturday evening, November 13, at 5:15 p.m. the workmen, having at five o'clock finished the construction of the New Building of the Museum of the Bucks County Historical Society at Doylestown, a band of traveling musicians stopped, unasked, at No. 196 Green Street, opposite the southeast gable of the building and I heard them play the German song. . .

*We have built a stately house  
And dedicated it to God  
Against rain, storm  
Against rain, storm, and disaster.”*

I called them back to play it again but they misunderstood me and went away.

For the past fifty-two years this “stately house” has survived “rain, storm, and disaster” to serve the people of Bucks County and the nation. Thousands of visitors — the scholar, the student, and the curious — have come to Doylestown from the fifty states and the continents of Asia, Europe, Africa, and South America to see what Henry Ford called “the only museum worth visiting.” Surprisingly, there are some Bucks Countians who are not aware of the museum's existence and many who are but have no clear idea of what it is.



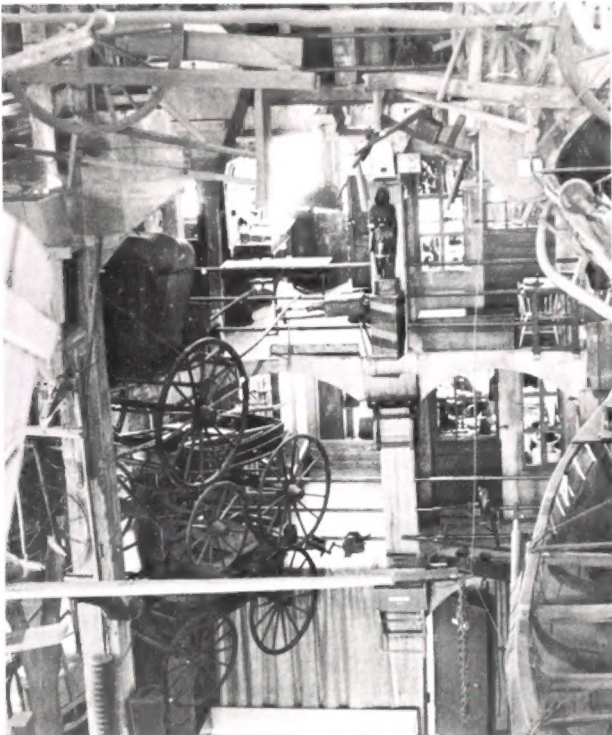
The sign that welcomes you to the Museum.

Dr. Henry Chapman Mercer  
1856-1930

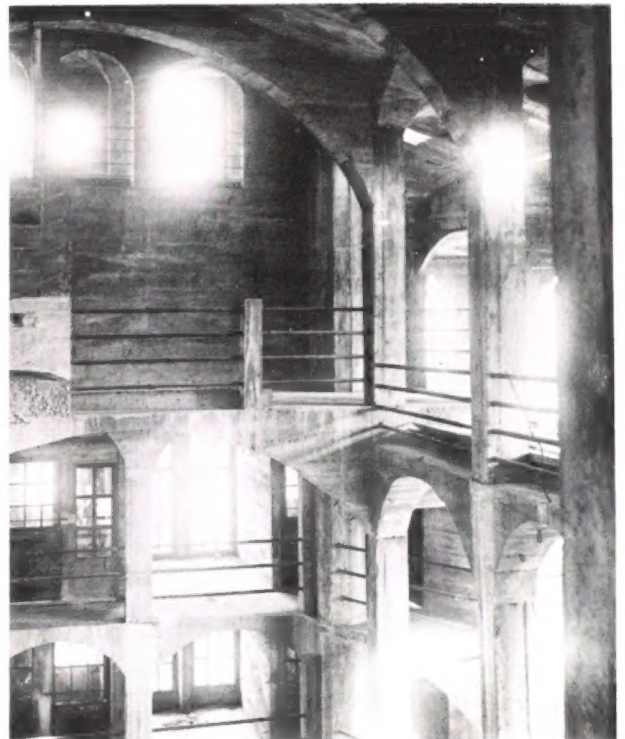




*The unusual architectural lines of the museum which was one of the first reinforced concrete structures built in the United States.*



*The central court as it appeared in January 1916 before the artifacts were placed on exhibit.*



*View of the Mercer Museum's central court.*

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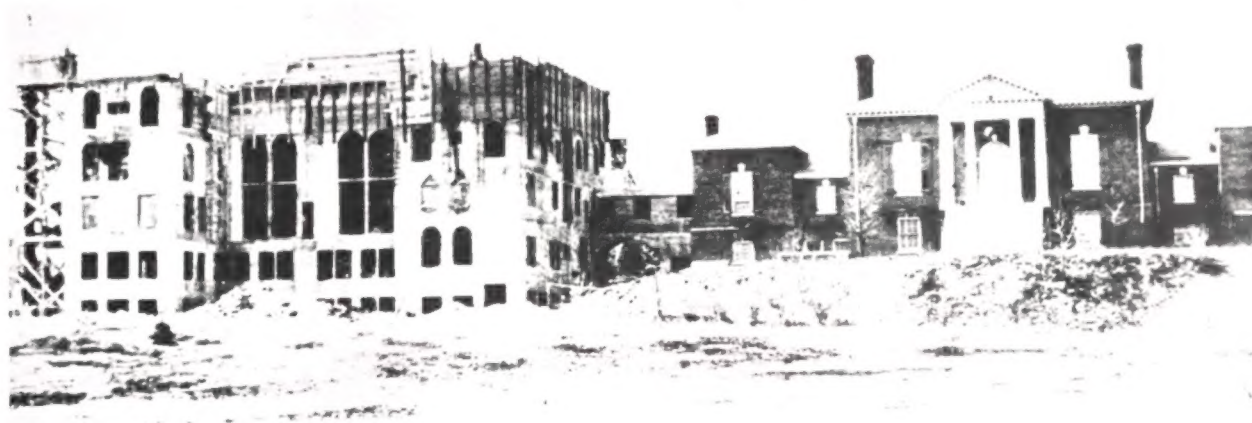


## The Mercer Museum - . . . "A Stately House"

(continued from page 5)

An indication of what Dr. Mercer believed he had built is the name he gave his new building. He called it a museum. This noun, which is repeated often today by Americans using increased leisure time in search of their heritage, is derived from the Latin word meaning "a place of study." All study is essentially reduced to man and his environment. In museums man is investigated through his environment. The natural world in which we live is studied in natural history museums. The environment which man has created in this natural world is studied at such institutions as art, industrial, aero-space and historical museums.

Dr. Mercer built his place of study to preserve and investigate the environment European man used to transfer his civilization to the natural wilderness of the New World. This is why the archeologist, author and historian called his collection of over thirty-thousand artifacts "Tools of the Nation Maker."



*The Mercer Museum under construction in 1914.*

Dr. Mercer, who was born in Doylestown five years before Abraham Lincoln became President, entered the practice of law in Philadelphia after his graduation from Harvard in 1879. By the mid 1880's his interests had turned to archeology and anthropology and before his death he was to write over sixty monographs on these subjects. Archeologists, digging among the ruins of primitive cultures and those of Egypt, Greece, and Rome, had for several decades seen the value of objects in revealing the secrets of the past. Late in the 19th century a group of Northern European scholars had begun using objects to study more recent civilizations. This was a new approach. Historians had traditionally used manuscripts, documents, diaries, and literature to study historic man. Here was a new source of information — the three-dimensional object created and used by man. Dr. Mercer was one of the first to apply this idea in America — and the Mercer Museum is the result of his effort to make it a reality.

In the late 19th century Americans were not concerned with their past but were in a headlong race to produce

the goods needed by a country with what seemed to be an unlimited future. In the process the great engines of the Industrial Revolution were destroying the craft traditions and "machines" which had been the technology of previous generations. The hand tool, horse power, and water wheel were being replaced by the assembly line, internal combustion engine and steam turbine. If the material culture representing everyday life in the first three hundred years of our history was to be preserved, America had to act quickly. Dr. Mercer was among the first of his countrymen to accept the challenge.

In 1907, in an address before the Bucks County Historical Society, Dr. Mercer recalled the beginning of his work to save the objects of the past:

It was then, probably one day in February or March of the Spring of 1897, that I went to the premises of one of our fellow citizens, who had been in the habit of going to country sales and at the last moment buying what they called "penny lots," that is to say valueless masses

of obsolete utensils or objects which were regarded as useless, or valuable only as old iron or kindling wood. . . . The particular object of the visit above mentioned was to buy a pair of tongs for an old fashioned fire place, but when I came to hunt out the tongs from the midst of a disordered pile of old wagons, gum tree salt boxes, flax brakes, straw bee hives, tin dinner horns, rope machines, and spinning wheels . . . the idea occurred to me that the history of Pennsylvania was here profusely illustrated and from a new point of view.

The type of objects which Dr. Mercer set out to collect are popularly known as "antiques." To those interested in their educational value, they are collectively known as "material culture" and individually as "artifacts." The distinction between artifact and antique is not easily defined, for both names can be rightfully given to the same object. The difference is in the way the object is viewed.

Antiques are usually valued in terms of today's world.



Their age, fine craftsmanship and aesthetic characteristics add quality to our homes filled with the objects produced by the machines of mass production. The more the antique possesses these qualities, the greater its monetary value. To the historian, archeologist, and anthropologist the antique is only the top of an iceberg with a great mass of historical information lying below the surface. The historical value of the object is judged in terms of the culture which produced and used it. Thus, a Smith Plow, produced in Tinicum Township in the 1790's might tell us more about life in this period than a fine piece of cabinet work produced at about the same time. That such objects as the plow were of more value to the early Americans than luxury items can be seen in the following words of a New England farmer in 1919:

The Plow-Man that raiseth Grain, is more serviceable to Mankind than the Painter who draws only to please the Eye. The hungry Man would count fine Pictures but a mean Entertainment. The Carpenter who builds a good House to defend us from the Wind and Weather, is more serviceable than the curious Carver, who employs his Art to please his fancy. This condemns not Painting or Carving, but only shows, that what's more substantially serviceable to Mankind, is much preferable to what is less necessary. 1

For today's historian the common objects of everyday life are often more valuable resources of information than the rare or unusual.

Dr. Mercer collected these common objects of everyday life for a span of thirty-three years. The fruit of his labors is today one of the world's largest and finest collections of American material culture, primarily from the Colonial period to 1860.

The collection expanded in the first sixteen years of Dr. Mercer's work to a point where by 1913 the Society's Elkins Building, which had served as a meeting place and museum since 1904, could hold no more. Dr. Mercer, therefore, offered to build the Bucks County Historical Society a reinforced concrete building to serve as a museum. On November 25, 1913, the Society accepted his offer and in almost exactly two years the work was completed and the itinerant musicians, mentioned previously, "dedicated it to God." It took an additional seven months to fill the museum's four galleries and eighty-one rooms with artifacts and the building was not formally dedicated until June 17, 1916.

Today's visitor often asks what the museum was before it was used as a museum. The reply that it was designed specifically as a museum startles the public used to the modern museums such as the Guggenheim in New York, the Museum of History and Technology in Washington, and the William Penn Museum in Harrisburg. The "one-horse shay," Conestoga wagon, whale boat, grain fan, chairs, and fire engine that hang from the Mercer's vaulted ceilings give the visitor the unique experience of walking through America's past. The artifacts are presented in this way because in 1916, museums, rarely visited by the public, were thought of as storehouses for the collections of scientists and hobbyists. In the intervening years and especially since the Second World War, people have been coming to museums in such great numbers that the phenomena has sometimes been called the "Museum explosion." By 1926, Dr. Mercer anticipated the new roles museums would play for future generations when he said: "Our museum has been a success. This is our chief reliance for the future. Month by month, year by year, it speaks to larger audiences."

Today the Mercer Museum is attempting to preserve

(continued on page 20)



One of the few surviving original forms of Benjamin Franklin's "Pennsylvania Iron Fireplace." Introduced in 1742.



Stove Plate from a five-plate stove. The Mercer Museum holds the world's largest collection of American Stove Plates.





*by Sister Mary Evangelist, S.B.S.*

Back in 1889, Katharine Drexel, daughter of the millionaire Francis Anthony Drexel and Hannah Langstroth Drexel, gave herself and her inherited wealth to the improvement of conditions in which the two most neglected minority groups in America lived. On May 6th of that year Miss Katharine Drexel began preparing for her apostolate as the Foundress of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People.

On February 12, 1891, as the first Sister in the new Congregation, Mother Katharine Drexel pronounced her Vows in the Motherhouse Chapel of the Sisters of Mercy in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Then, with a few young ladies also newly professed Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, Mother Katharine returned to Philadelphia and took up temporary quarters in the Drexel summer home in Torresdale, Pa. Seventy-five years ago the Missionaries moved to the newly erected St. Elizabeth's Convent at Cornwells Heights in Bucks County.

Mother Katharine Drexel made numerous trips up and down and across the United States, building and staffing schools from Virginia to Louisiana and Texas, from New York to Arizona.

There was a close spiritual bond among the young pioneers of the new religious community. Tears flowed at the farewell scene, June 13, 1894 during the first departure of the missionaries from the Motherhouse. Their destination was St. Catherine's Indian School in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Mother Katharine's urgency to begin the Apostolate of education can best be summed up in four words: "The Time is Now." With keen foresight this zealous woman seemed to think the hour was late even then to begin preparation for the future. The *future* which is our *today*.

Around the time history was marching into the twentieth century Mother Katharine stood before a group of bronzed warriors of the desert — the head men of the Navajo Tribe and pleaded the cause of their children. They must be educated, so that when the time came they could take their place on equal terms with their pale-face brothers. She promised a school — a boarding school for both boys and girls — staffed by her Sisters who would come to the children not only as teachers but as mothers. (Indians have very great love for their children.)

It is on record that when the school was finally built and staffed in 1902, Indian parents camped for days and nights on the hills surrounding the stone building in the valley. By day they watched. At night the Sisters could see camp-fires from whichever window they looked.

Had Mother Katharine Drexel been endowed with the gift of prophecy as she addressed the chiefs, she could have promised:

"In the years to come higher education will be provided for your children's children. A four-year, academic, State-approved high school will be added in 1946. Among the graduates will be a geologist with a college degree, concentrating on your land and water resources, nurses, clerical workers, young men and women steadily employed in nearby states as welders, foresters, etc. Many of your young people will grow up to become good fathers and mothers, raising families to whom Church and State can point with pride. Some will return to the Reservation as qualified teachers, replacing Sisters who have grown old among you."

Prior to this eventful year for the Navajos — in 1899 to be exact — Mother Katharine opened another board-



ing school which she had built and staffed. It has been known through the years as St. Francis de Sales, Rock Castle, Virginia. (The Post Office would change the name to Powhatan.) To hundreds of Negro girls living throughout the United States it is affectionately referred to as "The Castle."

Each new foundation had a mixture of joy and sorrow. When, on July 17, 1899, Mother Katharine arrived at the station nearest the Castle, she and her companion were met by the hired farmer. "Mother," he announced, "I have very bad news for you. We have had a fire." The new barn had been burned down. Many times in her life, with a heart full of charity for God and man, Mother Katharine would initiate building projects and erect institutions with evidence of ill will from surrounding communities. Here in the midst of this beautiful solitude someone had set fire to the new barn.

People, hearing about Mother Katharine, her older sister Elizabeth and her younger sister, Louise, frequently express surprise that these young girls, acquainted with luxury from birth, should have such heartwarming love for the poor. This love and understanding was instilled in them by their father, Mr. Francis Anthony Drexel, and their mother, Mrs. Emma Mary (Bouvier) Drexel. Mother Katharine never permitted anyone to refer to her father's second wife as a step-mother, since her own mother died a few days after giving birth to little Katie.

These wealthy girls frequently were admonished that the earthly treasure they possessed was given them by God so they might help others.

Trips abroad were considered by the parents to be a necessary part of the educational program planned for the three Drexel girls. In September of 1884, Mr. Drexel and his three daughters made an exciting trip to the great Northwest.

While Sister Katharine was in the Novitiate in Pittsburgh she had reason to remember this memorable visit. Sister Consuela Marie Duffy, S.B.S. described it in her biography, *Katharine Drexel, a Biography*. "As Sister Katharine went into Retreat for her Profession Day, a devastating crisis occurred in the Indian Territory. A Sioux uprising near Pine Ridge Reservation led to the terrible days of the Wounded Knee Massacre. Holy Rosary Mission, which she had built to fulfill a promise to Red Cloud, a famous Sioux Chieftain, was right in the midst of this bloody affair. The Franciscan Sisters who were teaching there at her request, as well as the Indian children, were a cause of painful concern.

"Mother M. Kostka, superior of the mission school wrote to Sister Katharine:

The poor wild, fearful, enraged Indians kept in their hostile lodge only a quarter of an hour's ride distant from the mission. . . Everyone who approached the lodge in civilized dress was shot down. . . Wherever one looked was fire and nobody was in sight. . .

"Another letter followed weeks later:

I would like to publish from the highest mountain that PRAYER and only prayer saved us. . . Just today we learned from an interview with Chief Red Cloud that his warriors who set the Government Schools on fire wanted to destroy our Mission and kill us. . . But Red Cloud used all his influence to convince them that the *Blackrobes* always acted kindly toward the Indians.

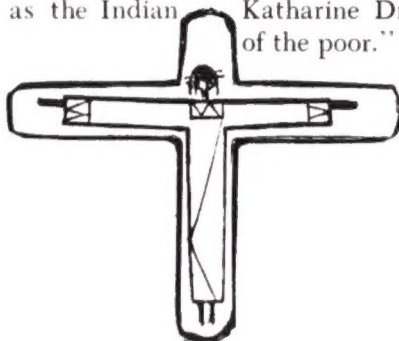
"Red Cloud remembered the three gracious women who had braved the inconveniences of the area. . . making a special visit to his home and promising to erect a school. They had fulfilled that promise and provided for the education of the children. In the day of the greatest danger. . . he remembered and rose up to prevent its destruction."

With full knowledge of the dangers that would have to be met, Mother Katharine Drexel went bravely on through the years building or supporting, frequently staffing (with her own Sisters as the Congregation grew in numbers) elementary and high schools and Xavier University in New Orleans, Louisiana.

In 1935 Mother Katharine's tired heart weakened and the doctor prescribed rest. There were to be no more missionary travels. However, she could get around in a wheel chair, and although weak and fragile, she lived almost twenty years more. Death came March 3, 1955. This meant the Drexel estate had to be distributed to the 29 charities in the will her father wrote two years before he died and eight years before Mother Katharine established the Congregation he knew nothing about. The will, dated March 16, 1883, provided for three equal trusts totaling about \$15 million dollars for his three daughters. This sum earned vast income in the ensuing years.

Sister Consuela Marie, from whose book I have so freely quoted, has one thought-provoking sentence.

"... The doors of the rich were open to the wealthy Katharine Drexel, but she chose to knock on the doors of the poor."





## THE SONG OF THE GRIST MILLS



by  
*Virginia Castleton Thomas*

There was a song that played itself during the time of the water grist mills. The melody was a drift of sound from the water buckets on the wheel as the casks lifted their arms and creaked upward and then plashed downward. The music was that of wheels turning and hoppers filled with prime grain being turned into a powdery substance that would be made into nourishing bread for hungry men.

One could start out on an early morning silver with dew and sunshine and turn a corner and locate the music. Hugging the bank of its creek, the grist mill sat and sang. Its usually large size made one stop and listen. A huge water wheel insisted its way around as it waded heavily through the running creek water and flung its spray toward the wind.

Cogwheels rattled and millstones rumbled and grain was crushed. Within the building, the dusties, as millers were called, aided the mechanical parts of the mill. They hauled huge sacks up flights of steps to be poured into the devouring hopper. Wheat and rye flour and corn for mush — these were the causes for the rearing of a giant grist mill on some stream bed.

The early miller was his own engineer. Once his selection of site had been decided upon, the millwright who would install the equipment for the mill wandered the area of water, using a crude water level made from a tin pipe, five feet in length and with bottomless vials at each end. With tinted water circulating within the vials, the millwright as surveyor took his sight as he followed the curves of the bankline for a level route.

Grist milling was at one time so much a part of living that there were 17 mills running in the area of Solebury Township. Carversville Creek supported at least six and there were five on the Cuttalossa. In some places the remains of the once active giants still reach four stories

into the sky. Many of the mills began their slow, downward decay almost a century ago. Lack of water power, the drying up of racing streams, and the farmer who ground his own grain by a small engine method brought about the fading sounds of active grist mills.

It was a good life, that of being miller, but sometimes uneasy. He was usually suspect of theft by his customers. The system of payment to the miller who ground the various grains was similar to that of tithing in the church. The miller received a tenth part of a bushel as pay. There is the story of the farmer who brought in eleven bushels of grain for grinding. He reasoned that he was paying for the grinding of ten bushels, but that in bringing in only ten bushels, in exchange he received back nine.

The mills flourished in times of plenty. Grain ripened in sun-stripped fields. Exultant farmers drove wagons laden with heavy bags, and this was to be their winter's security. Flour dust rose like powdery fog around the mill. It was during this pulverizing of his grain that the farmer knew fruition to his year's labors.

Socially, the miller, or dustie, was avoided at Sunday meeting because his clothing carried the powdery trademark of his work. There was a great deal of grumbling from the people next to whom he chose to sit, and they were sometimes vehement in their complaints of finding the siftings of flour rubbed off on their best Sunday serges.

Millers encountered other difficulties in the line of their work, too. More than one farm wife accused her miller of being the cause of her poorly made bread. "The grinding is not what it used to be," the defensive woman would say. One newlywed wife defended her hard loaves of bread by declaring the miller had given her tough flour.

Stones used in milling came from various quarries. Lancaster County was a thriving area for producing these country stones. As advancements in milling were made, stones were imported from France, as buhrs. The buhrs were used in producing the finest wheat flour. Other stones found in the mills were hulling stones used to remove the hulls from buckwheat.

Many country mills produced ground corn for shipment to the West Indies. The heat of those far away islands necessitated "cornkilns" to dry the corn before export. It was during the cornkiln preparation that some young dusties discovered pop corn. There were many burned fingers from the hungry young dusties reaching among the coals to grab for one of the pops.

The murmurs of the millrace are gone. The flutter of tubwheels disappeared with the sunshine speckling the ash and beech trees that leaned against the side of the grinding mill. No sound comes from within the remaining stone-colored buildings. For their song was a melody of yesterday, and simplicity and buckwheat and dripping water wheels know only a museum memory.





"Ringing Rocks  
Camping Grounds" Lodge.

## RINGING ROCKS CAMPING GROUNDS

by Elmer Cull

Walter Downs — a man with a goal — is the owner of "Ringing Rocks Camping Grounds," in Bridgeton Township, Upper Bucks County. He says that as far as he knows, it is the only private camp site in Bucks County. It is "away" out, but easily accessible by automobile, since it is not too far from Route 611 or from River Road, Route 32.

Mr. Downs owns 24 acres and leases another 14 acres. Most of the camp site area is being developed, which means the clearing of unwanted trees or brush for added camp sites. He hastens to add that he takes out only the trees and brush that are in the way, preferring to conserve the natural wooded setting campers enjoy. There are now 24 camp sites, and Mr. Downs hopes to make it 50 by this spring. The sites are nestled in beautiful woodlands of picturesque white birch, dogwood and cedar, surrounded by rugged terrain. Huge boulders line the roadways in the area, reminiscent of the New England countryside.

Mr. Downs plans to make more roadways in the camp area, and he is arranging them in loops instead of straight, to add atmosphere and privacy. Many of the camp sites have electric hookups for camp-trailers. There is plenty of water — he has three wells, one of which is 500 feet deep. There is a large playground site for children. And, for that avid fisherman, Lake Warren is only 1 1/2 miles away and the Delaware River about two miles. The beautiful Delaware sets the scene for swimming, water skiing and boating (public and private ramps).

There are churches, shopping and Ringing Rocks Park (one of nature's wonders) within a three-mile radius. The camp site is also within close range of Riegelsville, Doylestown, Allentown, Bethlehem, Trenton and Philadelphia.

Walter Downs' land is patrolled by the Bridgeton Township Police and protected by the Bridgeton Township Sportsmen's Association, Inc. There is no hunting in the camp grounds during the camping season.

When we asked Mr. Downs how he discovered such an ideal spot, far from this "go-go" world, he related that he and his wife, Edith, decided that they wanted to find a spot within an hour's drive of their present home in Penndel, Pa. — a private place where their family could enjoy the camping life they had come to love. When Walter and Edith looked at the grounds they realized this was it! Not just for their own camping use, but quite possibly for a large private camping site, as well. They both like the out-of-doors, as do their three children, Debbie, 12; Frank, 11; and Karen, 8.

This venture all happened about three years ago, and Walter starts his second full season this May.

His work begins long before the camp opens, because he starts with the cleanup of the sites, cutting trees near roads, and generally overhauling what has to be done before the season starts on May 1. He spends much of the winter months planning for the next season. When the camp grounds are in full operation, he puts in seven days a week, from seven in the morning to almost midnight. When Mr. Downs first began working on the camp site, he built an "A-Frame" for a shelter, which he lived in the first summer. It's a neat job, too! Now that he no longer needs it for living quarters, he uses it for storage.

He has built a large (24' x 40') building for an office, store, and living quarters, and he plans to expand. The present headquarters is very well constructed — a warm, inviting place with a large lodge-type fireplace, a television, soft-drink vending machines, ice, firewood, and

(continued on page 25)





With so much emphasis in the mass media on the war, inflation, poverty, and civil strife, we have heard little but discouraging and disquieting news lately.

But there's *good* news about America! It's buried in ordinary life, in unspectacular progress, in unprecedented prosperity, in unread statistics. But it's good news!

We do not mean to belittle our common problems. We must face them realistically and immediately. But here are some of the assets which we can bring to bear on them.

First of all, we have our people. There are 200 million of us — compared with 100 million in 1915, 50 million a century ago, and 4 million in 1790. Coming from various backgrounds we have all become Americans over a relatively short period of time compared with old world civilizations. The British count 45 generations since the Norman Conquest. We have had settlements here for about one-third of that time. Before then all the natives were Indians. Yet despite our wide diversity of ancestry, we are more unified than any free nation on earth. We are becoming homogenized.

Because two out of three live in megalopolitan areas we forget there are acres of land for every person to share. And, since the birth rate is decreasing, we may expect to taper off at about 300 million. There still will be enough to sustain us all.

Despite rash generalizations about our youth the truth is that our average age is 28. However, life expectancy is going up. The average baby girl today may expect to see 75 easily. Even a fifty-year-old man has a good chance to pass 70. Thus the average age will be going up.

Incidentally, in 1920 life expectancy was only 54 years!

The percentage of non-whites has been rising from a valley to about 12 percent — about the 1900 level. Both birth and death rates are higher. So, obviously, is poverty. But the percentage of college-educated non-whites is increasing at a rapidly accelerating rate, especially among Negroes.

If the expressways seem crowded, remember that 37 million of us live in the Middle Atlantic States — compared with 7.8% in the wide Mountain States belt. But our income is higher.

Not all of us are ill-housed. Half the houses in America have been built since 1945. And a few older ones may be statistically obsolete — but don't say that to a Bucks County owner of a genuine Colonial! Actually, 90% of American housing is *not* dilapidated. That's a 1% rise each year this generation!

Even if we allow for inflation, here's something for the Soviet citizen to marvel at. In our "decadent" society, the average value of owner-occupied dwellings has risen from \$3,000 in 1940 to \$12,000 today.

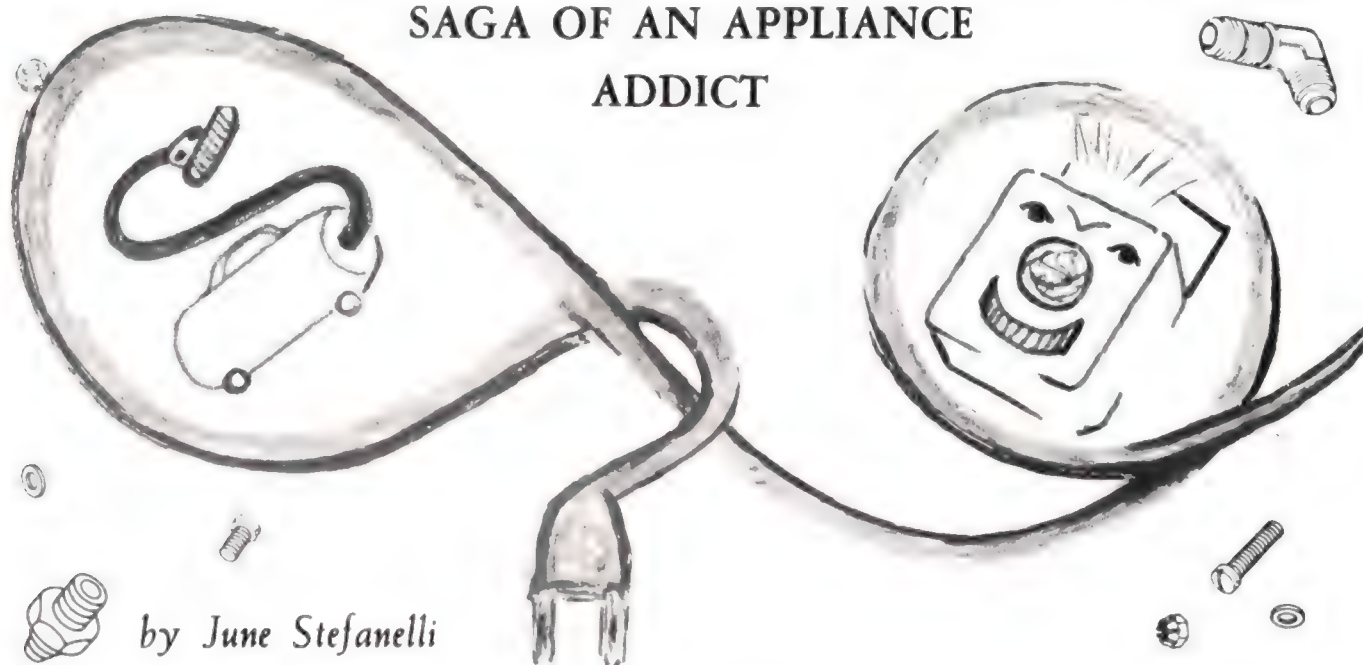
To summarize: over the past ten years, the population rose 15 percent. But the gross national product — the total of goods and services produced — rose over 40 percent.

Of course we have problems — big ones. But there's good news in America! We have the assets, the productivity — and above all the people with a heart to solve them!

*Editor's Note:* Statistics cited are Census Bureau figures of November 1967.



## SAGA OF AN APPLIANCE ADDICT



by June Stefanelli

Some women are wild for jewelry, others have a yen for furs, and still others crave high style fashions. These luxuries I may find appealing, but I can buzz by these departments in the downtown stores without a second glance. My uncontrollable weakness is for electrical appliances — and my sales resistance is negligible where they're concerned.

Our home is equipped with all these modern labor-saving devices — from sputtering electric toothbrushes to a temperamental dishwasher.

I love to browse amid the major and small appliances, and should I encounter a charming, authoritative salesman, I'm hooked. This seasoned veteran rhapsodizes about the merits of his mechanical monster. He knows — and I know — before he finishes his spiel that he's made a sale. I'm convinced no home can be without this latest electrical miracle.

My only problem with such purchases is that I seem to have an uncanny knack for picking the loser in the lot — be it toasters, vacuum cleaners, washing machines or hair dryers. These appliances enter my home innocently enough, but as soon as their guarantee runs out, they're up to all types of madness.

I often envision an assembly line of appliances waiting for packing in the factory. The demonstration model is giving a pep talk to the underlings:

"Okay, boys, this is graduation day. Do a good job *until* the guarantee expires. We make money on parts! Don't do anything too drastic. Protect the company name at all costs. . . Just frustrate the customer. . . Pop a few bolts, burn a couple of wires, or snap a fan belt or two. . . You there, Charlie (he's *my* appliance), try to break down with a fairly obvious complaint. Let the Mr. Fixit of the house give it a go at repairing you. That's always good for a double order on replacement parts!"

© My dishwasher overruns its wash cycle with some regularity, spilling billowing soap suds on my kitchen floor.

My garbage disposal gobbles up the silverware.

My stereo is harboring a wayward woodpecker at the very least, tapping out all manner of interference.

My television set spasmodically blinks out frightfully distorted images.

My washing machine is forever collecting pennies and buttons in its motor.

My dryer jitters like a watusi dancer.

Even my electric clock has a mysterious, eerie buzz.

I know all the service repair men on a first-name basis, as one or another of them parade back weekly to repair some disorderly member of my electrical army.

Everybody else I know marvels at the life span of their appliances, and the lack of repair necessary to maintain them. Our appliances know the score, and in thirty-one, sixty-one, or ninety-one days — depending on the guarantee — the inevitable happens. They most peculiarly go out of commission.

I'm still debating whether my friends are exaggerating, or I'm dimwitted and am being outfoxed by superior salesmanship and inferior merchandise.

Does this deter me from future purchases? Heck, no! Like a Las Vegas gambler, I feel there's always the possibility I may beat the odds. I can't *always* pick the lemons — and I'm certainly entitled to a switch in luck.

When a new electrical marvel hits the market, you can bet I'll be there, at the head of the line, for the sample demonstration. If you can plug it into an outlet, and it charges at the press of the starter button, it's for me!





# this BREW IS not *new!*

If you want to perk up your local government, brew up some reforms, and not feel like you're living in a vacuum packed with ineffective politicians — throw a "campaign coffee." This non-raucous political caucus is "klatsching" on all over America.

From the local school board to major national campaigns — a candidate isn't worth a row of beans if he hasn't made points and influenced votes over an informal coffee get-together.

But this brew is not new! Political history has always been laced with coffee. The coffeehouse was traditionally the place where the hottest issues of the day were stirred up. Forerunners of the political club — such famous coffeehouses as Will's, Buttons, the Green Dragon and Procope's — are ground into history itself.

The first coffeehouse was established in London in 1652. Within twenty years, coffeehouses had come to play so important a role in the social and political life of the day that Charles II attempted to repress them on the grounds that they were "seminaries of sedition."

But, history was being hatched over hot coffee and Charles II could not stop the flow. In spite of royal opposition, the free-thinking spirit of the English coffeehouse survived.

The French had a word for it — and how important a word is shown by the fact that our common term for restaurant is *cafe*, the French word for coffee or coffeehouse. At Procope's in Paris, Robespierre, Marat and Danton plotted the fall of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette — cakes didn't help her with those coffee drinkers either! But Procope's didn't lose its head — in 1790 it was still around, draped in black to mourn the passing of that friend of the Republic, Benjamin Franklin — and still later it played host to a poor artillery officer named Bonaparte who was forced to leave his tricornered hat as security for unpaid coffee bills!

The spirit of coffee and caucus was soon imported to the New World. Boston's Green Dragon was by far the most celebrated of the American coffeehouses —



and Daniel Webster called it the headquarters of the Revolution; but the King's Arms near Trinity Church was also well known. Rooms on its second story were used for public trials and political meetings.

This historic-gastronomic combination is as politically potent today as it was when John Adams led a band out of the Green Dragon to dispose of a great deal of tea! With an estimated 43,000 elections held in the United States every year, the campaign coffee gathering is made to order for down home politicking. Held in private homes and attended by neighbors, the device brings candidates face to face with constituents in the hospitable, "let's discuss the issues" atmosphere which the "think drink" traditionally invokes.

Of special appeal to campaign organizers is the fact that a campaign coffee costs very little and is quickly and easily executed. It's a great help to younger party members and other tyro volunteers intent on becoming veteran campaigners, thus greatly enhancing the effectiveness of standing party organizations. What's more, if planned on a block by block basis, it offers candidates a kind of exposure which would otherwise be prohibitively expensive or downright impossible to attain.

The Coffee Information Service considers coffee and campaigning the best running mates since Tippecanoe and Tyler too! So enthused are national political organi-

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zations with the idea, that "How-To-Do-It Campaign Coffee Clinics" will be part of many conventions and major political meetings between now and November 5, 1968 — the Big Presidential Election Day.

Campaign Coffees can perk-up your candidate's election chances too. For a successful coffee, according to veteran campaigners, simply follow these tips.

1. Choose a time convenient to your candidate's schedule but also be sure to consider your audience. A Campaign Coffee at 10 or 11 a.m. is ideal for mothers of school children; 2:30 to 4 p.m. is convenient for women without children and 8:30 or 9 p.m. is fine for business people and couples. Saturday is a poor day for a coffee party but Sunday afternoon is good.
2. Try to keep your guest list down to fewer than 30 people. This gives your man a chance to talk with everyone and eliminates the possibility of guests forming gossip groups on the fringes.
3. Your invitations need not be elaborate. In fact, a postcard is recommended. Say anything you like but keep it simple and light. By all means invite them for coffee. "Come for coffee and meet our man" promises an informal social gathering rather than a "rah rah" political rally. Mail invitations 10 to 14 days in advance. Phone a few days before to determine who is planning to come and convince the undecided. If necessary, add phone invitees at this time to assure a sufficient attendance. Be sure to follow-up on coffee day with telephone calls.
4. You and the candidate should agree beforehand on a time limit for his visit. He should arrive after your guests, and depending on the number present, spend no more than 30 minutes talking and discussing the issues. A pre-determined departure time is necessary so the candidate can hold to his travel schedule.
5. Your candidate should come with a companion whose main function will be to see that the candidate leaves on time.
6. Be sure to serve good coffee. Use a clean pot, freshly ground coffee and cold water. Measure both coffee and water accurately — *one* part coffee to *six* parts water. Never allow the coffee to boil and always serve it hot. One pound of coffee and two gallons of water will make 40 servings of 6 ounces each.
7. Elaborate food and refreshments at a Campaign Coffee are neither necessary nor desirable. Cookies or doughnuts are enough, but if you should choose a more elaborate dessert make it a simple, non-crumblly one which may be eaten in hand.
8. Elaborate decorations are unnecessary. Your candidate's posters are appropriate and you may wish to enhance the campaign theme with bunting available from your local political club. If you do use bunting, be sure to use it correctly: the blue should always be at the top to the observer's left if used vertically. Never use Old Glory as a bunting and when you do display our flag, be sure the blue field appears at the upper left to the observer.



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## Rambling with Russ

by

A. Russell Thomas

**APRIL 1;** Don't answer the front door bell, it's All Fools' Day. . . 5th, Pocahontas married John Rolfe, 1614. . . 6th, Houdini, magician born, 1874. . . 11th, Maundy Thursday. . . 12th, Good Friday. . . 14th Easter Sunday. . . 16th, Charlie Chaplin born, 1889. . . 18th, Paul Revere's Ride, 1775. . . 19th, U.S. off the gold standard, 1933. . . 21st, Rome founded 753 B.C. . . 30th, Louisiana Purchase, 1803.

### DOWN MEMORY LANE

A PANORAMA reader surprised this Rambler recently when he asked if we remembered the Blickensderfer typewriter. The answer was YES. The BLICK [for short] was one of the scientific marvels of the Pre-Liberty motor era, and this Rambler was a BLICK salesman in Cleveland before World War I.

THE BLICK used a revolving ink-fed cylinder instead of the key and ribbon combination. When you struck the keyboard, the cylinder whirled impressively through a variable gyration, then plinked down against the paper, leaving the desired letter printed moistly in its wake. It was also multi-lingual. You could change your cylinder for ones with other alphabets and languages embossed on them. The carriage for the Jewish keyboard ran backwards.

WHEN MY father was publisher of the Doylestown Daily Intelligencer, that newspaper used three Blickensderfer. They still may be somewhere in the attic of that historic building, for all I know.

WHEN I was selling BLICKS out of Cleveland, my territory was the entire state of Ohio, Michigan and parts of West Virginia. Our speciality was selling to ministers, druggists, college professors and folks who really wanted something different in the way of a typewriter. My hot competition in those days was the OLIVER typewriter, a machine that also used detachable type. I remember



well, there was a bonus for selling a customer a BLICK with what we called the "Scientific Keyboard." This was so different from the standard keyboard that once a customer learned it he could never use another make typewriter.

THE BLICK however, had one good feature. It was 50 pounds lighter than the OLIVER and \$50.00 cheaper. In case of fire, a client would be told, you could carry the old BLICK to safety.

THE BLICKENSDERFER ceased to be manufactured long ago. The two Blickensderfer brothers who invented the machine, also invented the underground mail tubes that used to convey letters from the Reading Terminal in Philadelphia to the Post Office several blocks away.

### GOOD OLDE DAZE

AN AMERICAN Pure Food Market advertisement in a Doylestown daily newspaper on my desk, dated November 16, 1934, just 34 years ago, listed among other things: tender steak, 19 cents a pound; pork shoulders, 12 1/2 cents a pound; chuck roast, 14 cents; loin lamb chops, 25 cents; pork chops, two pounds 35 cents; legs of lamb, 19 cents. . . Ed Godshall was the manager of the market, then located at 23 West State St. Doylestown.

**HISTORIC FACTS:** Doylestown's Lenape Building was erected in 1874-75 by the Doylestown Improvement Company, and at first housed a market, the Doylestown Post Office and several store rooms on the first floor. On the second floor was a public library and club rooms, besides a public hall well equipped with stage fixtures and a seating capacity for 600 persons. On the third floor three bodies of Odd Fellows met. . . The East Pennsylvania Spoke and Bending Works, Worstal & Carl proprietors, was established in 1858 at the corner of Court and State Streets [Doylestown] in a stone building erected in 1851 and used as a carriage house. . . Doylestown Lodge No. 245, F. & A.M. was constituted August 27, 1850 and the hall owned by this body on East State Street, was dedicated to Masonry on Thursday, October 28, 1858. . . Aquetong Lodge No. 193, I.O.O.F. was instituted June 30, 1846. . . St. Tammany Castle No. 173, K.G.E. was instituted April 25, 1887. . . The Doylestown Maennerchor Society was organized July 1, 1884.

**OUR BUCKS COUNTY PRISON:** Somewhat out-of-date physically, the Bucks County Prison dating back to 1885, is now virtually housing a near-capacity list of inmates and it won't be long before the County Commissioners will be faced with building an addition or an entirely new prison in another location.

NEVER BEFORE in the history of Bucks County have

(continued on page 22)



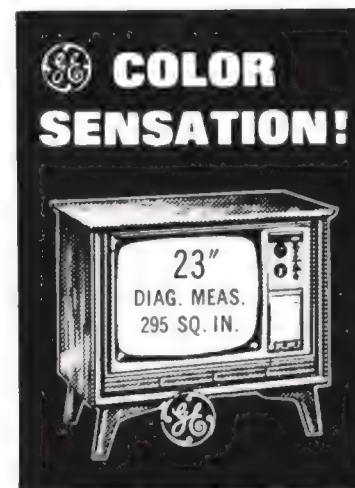
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### Between Friends



by Sheila Broderick

Every year I'm just sure it will never come again, but every year it comes bouncing back into our lives. What? Why April, of course!

April is spring, April is Easter, April is a rebirth in Bucks County, Leaves start appearing again, tiny and pale at first, but soon brightening in color and growing to full size. Most of our tiny wild friends who have slept the long cold months away start coming out of their burrows by this time, and flocks of birds will return to court and raise their young again.

Soon now, we'll see those few early butterflies warming themselves in the spring sunshine. Bees too, will be

venturing out shortly, to gather the nectar from the first flowers of April. But, as lovely as this month can be, it is also known for its sudden changes in weather. Frosts and heavy snows have visited us before at this time, as well as days of midsummer warmth. Yet still best known in this changing month are the sudden showers, and the breathtaking smell of the outdoors afterwards.

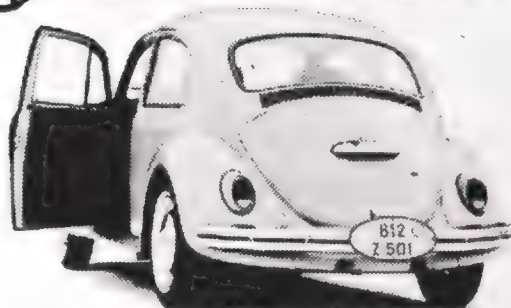
\* \* \*

Several of us travelled the road to Quakertown the other day to see how all the road building was coming along, and found quite a few surprises in store for us. However, it was very reassuring to find the old Red Lion Inn still as large as life. This was the first tavern ever to be built in Quakertown, having been completed in the year 1750, at least half a century before even a post office was established. It was a very popular hostelry. In the days when the horse and not the dog was "man's best friend," the Red Lion kept a separate register for the steeds ridden or driven by the guests. The names of the horses were written in this book before they were given board in the stable. No horse had to sign the register, however!

\* \* \*

Delaware Valley College will once again focus attention on the wonderful variety of projects, studying, and actual classroom work of its students next month. May 4 and 5 will see the annual "A Day" presented

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If he hasn't got it . . . maybe he just hasn't got it.



on the grounds of the college. Two full days of fun and unusual sights and sounds will be found on Route 202, one mile west of Doylestown. Refreshments from soft drinks and snacks to barbecued chicken will be available both days on the campus. Hours for this family outing are from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sat., and 12 noon to 5:00 p.m. Sun.

Take the children . . . take the neighbors' children! Give the youngsters a chance to see Animal and Dairy Husbandry, Agronomy, Horticulture, Ornamental Horticulture, Food Industry, and the sciences of Biology and Chemistry.

\* \* \*

Has anyone else noticed the unusual sign at the Hatfield Packing Company? Here, pride of quality is the first and foremost consideration, and the unique sign reads: "We have no quarrel with those who sell for less, they should know what their own stuff is worth."

\* \* \*

Ground was broken last month in Bucks County. Ground was probably broken in several places in Bucks! However, the spot we refer to is for the major additions and renovations to the Bucks County Juvenile Detention Home, U.S. Route 611, Doylestown Township. It will now move on to double its capacity, thus being able to house 17 more boys and 11 girls. It's too bad that we have to have detention homes, but since we do have an almost desperate need for these places, how fine that

we will be able to take in and help more youngsters.

\* \* \*

Do you have enough fire insurance? Does anyone ever have enough fire insurance? Every homeowner should make sure that he has adequate insurance coverage. It is because of indifference, ignorance, or incompetent agents or brokers that so many families fail to upgrade their policies over the years.

Today you pay more for labor, building materials, furniture, and other personal effects. Yet, in many cases, families still have the very same amount of insurance coverage they had when they purchased their property.

Please consult your agent today; talk it over with him and decide together if you have enough coverage. You may, of course, discover that you need to increase the amount of your present policy. But remember, friends, increased costs are small compared to the added amount of protection you will receive.

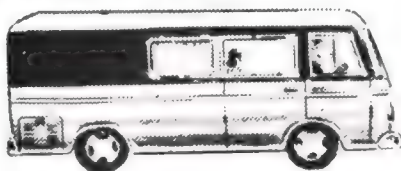
While checking your policy, make sure it fully covers replacement value of your property — not just the market value. This stumbling block will very often be found in older homes, where the market value may be considerably less.

\* \* \*

I have noticed that the hardware stores are once again boasting of carrying the best grass seeds, bulbs, and settings. All this brings to mind a neighbor of mine last

(continued on page 21)

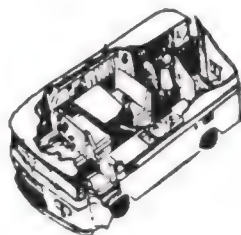
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### Mercer Museum

(continued from page 7)

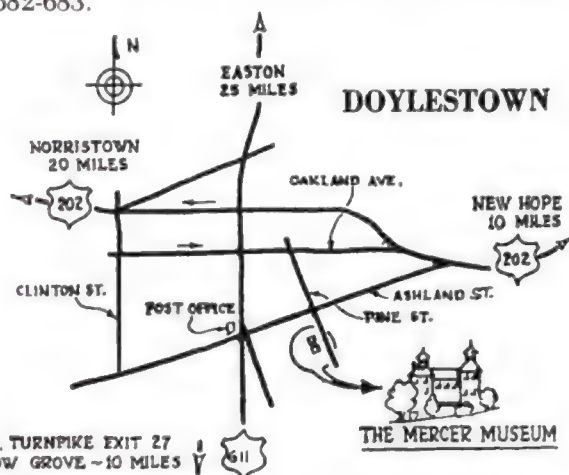
its unique quality while meeting the challenges of an educational institution in the second half of the twentieth century. New display techniques and special exhibits are being introduced to teach America's cultural heritage through artifacts. The needs of the scholar are being met by the introduction of a new cataloging system which will make the museum a library of three dimensional information, and elementary and secondary school teachers are making increased use of the museum as a viable out-of-class-room activity.

Although the primary purpose of this outstanding educational resource is to study the past, it is looking to the future when students will be better able to understand the world around them by studying the objects which made up the world of their forefathers. That Dr. Mercer saw the challenge, importance, and purpose of his museum can be seen in the following, written in 1916:

... These things are larger than the history of our town, larger than the history of our county, and larger even than the history of the United States. So that this collection might as well have been in Boston, or St. Louis, or New Orleans, or Rome, or Berlin, or Australia, or New Zealand, as here at Doylestown, but all the better for Bucks County that we have it... because our collection is not and never can be local, but on the contrary is of world-wide significance and, therefore, there can be no outsiders to it... go on as before with documentary local history, gather as all other similar societies gather it, but let the chief effort be to do what others have forgotten to do, namely to save from oblivion and put upon our records the fast vanishing traditional information about these historic objects.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Carl Bridenbaugh, *The Colonial Craftsman*, Chicago, Ill. 1961. P. 4.

<sup>2</sup> *Proceedings of Bucks County Historical Society*, Vol. IV, Pp. 682-683.





## BETWEEN FRIENDS

(continued from page 19)

year. I saw him working in his yard and asked whether he was having much trouble with the birds; we had had them come from miles away to eat our seed. "Oh no, not now," he said, "I sowed most of my seeds late one night. Then the next morning I went out and pretended to be doing it at the other end of the garden. The birds watched the whole time I was working. They've been scratching around like crazy for the last two weeks... and haven't found anything yet!"

This is also the time of year that we think of working on the appearance of our property, painting jobs or roof replacements. It's a funny thing though, we more often than not neglect to give even a passing thought to replacing equipment. The value of appliances in a home averages \$2300. The average life of an appliance varies from eleven to sixteen years. Some appliances will last longer, some for a shorter period. It will depend on the amount of hard use and tender loving care that each piece has had.

Washing machines last about eleven years, refrigerators sixteen. Many new homes come equipped with these fixtures, so very much like the new bride and her wedding gifts. After ten to fifteen years all of these will need to be replaced. Everyone should plan ahead for these replacements so that the entire equipment investment does not break down within a couple of years.

A very sure way to go about this is to save ten to twenty dollars each month just for new equipment. Also, apart from using the cash for replacements, this will also give you a working fund to keep present appliances repaired and operating. You should plan to spend two to four percent of the original cost of an appliance to keep it in operation. So, with both replacement and upkeep planned for in the household budget, you will avoid yet another crisis.

We have two very interesting notes from the Doylestown Hospital each bearing dates that I am sure a goodly number of you will want to write down in your appointment books.

April 3rd & 4th — Seven Springs Symposium — (located just off Penna. Turnpike 4 hours west of Willow Grove exit) The Hospital Assn. of Pennsylvania will sponsor a big (Really Big) educational conference replacing the Penn State Workshop. There will be seminars on volunteer service, gift shops and many others. Registration for one night and four meals, plus all materials, will cost \$39.00. If you are interested, call Prue Suydam for more information (348-5335).

May 25th — V.I.A. Annual Stardust Ball. This year's pre-fair ball will be held at the George Washington Convention Hall, Willow Grove, with a social hour preced-

(continued on page 23)



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Russ

(continued from page 17)

as many as **ten** persons been confined to the prison awaiting disposition of murder charges. It may soon be necessary to place as many as three and four prisoners in one cell, maybe more.

THE COST of the present BCP was \$83,274. The addition of a stone stable, built outside the wall in 1885 for \$1,700, raised the total cost to nearly \$85,000. The stable building is now used as a garage, workshop and living quarters. The BCP was finished and handed over to the County Commissioners on January 3, 1885, and the keys transferred to Sheriff Al H. Heist.

THE STONE, with which the BCP was built, is an excellent variety of red sandstone and was obtained from a quarry a short distance in the rear of the prison yard.

MAJOR JOHN D. CASE, prison warden, has done wonders since taking over the warden's duties. Having had the opportunity to visit numerous county jails in Pennsylvania, this Rambler can say without a doubt that even though our prison has been operating for 83 years, it is a palace compared to some other county prisons not too far away.

THE REV. D.K. Turner, of Hartsville, addressed a meeting of the Bucks County Historical Society at Menlo Park, Perkasio, July 18, 1893, and said, among other things:

"The annals of crime have been darkened by the perpetration of but few murders within the limits of our county." What a difference today!

TIMES HAVE changed and crime is on the increase, and with recent decisions of the Supreme Court, crime will continue to increase rapidly.

THE FIRST execution, probably the first in Pennsylvania, took place in July, 1693, when Derrick Johnson, alias Closson, was hung in Falls Township, after a fair trial. . . In 1831, Dr. William Chapman, of Bensalem, was poisoned by Minda, a Spaniard, and Minda was convicted and hung in a field on the Bucks County Almshouse property in the presence of 14 companies of volunteer infantry and six cavalry from Bucks and neighboring counties. . . on April 18, 1867, Albert Teuffel was hung in the jail-yard in Doylestown for killing James Wiley the captain of a canal boat near Narrowsville lock in Nockamixon Township. . . On February 15, 1856, Jacob Armbruster of Nockamixon Township was executed at Doylestown for taking the life of his wife that he might gain possession of a house and lot which she owned. . . On August 14, 1835, Joseph Blundy paid

(continued)



Russ

a like forfeit to justice for the murder of Aaron Cuttlehow.

WHEN THE Rev. Turner addressed the historians at the Menlo Park meeting back in 1893, he told the group: "Not one of the fair sex, so far as I have learned, has ever been within our prison walls pronounced guilty of murder.

\* \* \*

*The nicest thing about the promise of Spring is that sooner or later she'll have to keep it.*



### SHOPPING BYWAYS

How about treating the family to some of those heavenly pies from GOODNOE'S over the holidays.

### Between Friends

(continued from page 21)

ing a sirloin roast of beef dinner. Matt Gillespie and his popular orchestra will provide the music for dancing into the wee hours. The cost of this truly fabulous evening is \$25.00 per couple. What a way to have a splendid evening out with your best friends, and help a hospital at the same time!

\* \* \*

Now is the time to prepare your young children for registration for next year's school term.

Beginning now and continuing through May, schools throughout Bucks County will be registering children for kindergarten and first grade.

You parents can be a great help if you will have the following information available when you take your child for registration:

Your child's birth certificate and vaccination certificate; and your family doctor's statement regarding any other immunizations your child has had.

Be sure to let the school personnel know if your child has an allergy or handicap. Advise them of what has been done to overcome this problem; it is of the utmost importance that all such information be recorded on the child's permanent school records.

Above all else — let this experience of registration be an opportunity to introduce the young child to his new surroundings and people; preview school, meet the school nurse and the child's teacher. A child's life-long attitude towards school and education is formed during his early years... help the school to help him.



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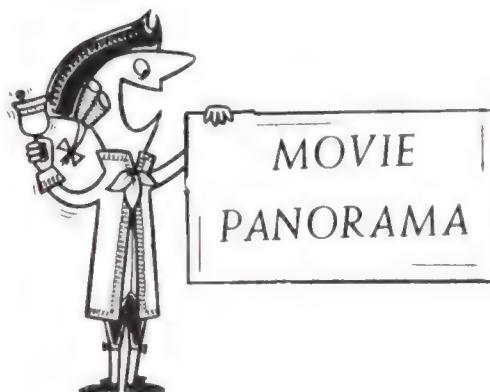
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*HALF A SIXPENCE* stars England's Tommy Steele. This is the first musical spectacle ever filmed entirely in Britain. It is a warmhearted, sentimental story of an orphan lad who inherits wealth and almost allows it to wreck his life.

*BILLION DOLLAR BRAIN* stars Michael Caine as British agent Harry Palmer. The plot concerns a vast espionage network in the form of a giant computer complex ticking out instructions to mercenaries around the world. A Texas millionaire, played by Ed Begley, pours his fortune into this frantically anti-Communist enterprise and his "brain" is at the center of it. "Billion Dollar Brain" extends the adventures of Palmer, introduced in "The Ipcress File" and continued in "Funeral in Berlin."

*HOW I WON THE WAR* stars Michael Crawford and John Lennon. Director Richard Lester, in his usual psychedelic style, has made an anti-war film whose chaotic complexity of horror and bitter burlesque deflates the glory attached to the military establishment. What appear to be authentic battle sequences are larded into the satiric adventures of a handful of English soldiers under the leadership of a literal minded, ever-blundering lieutenant. The erratic flashbacks, the introduction of symbolic figures of the dead serving alongside the battered group, the constant barbed thrusts at the professional military, all bring devastating emphasis to scenes of havoc and death. Rapid fire dialogue in various British accents is difficult to follow, as are the transitions from reality to fantasy, but the dreadful irony and futility of war come piercingly through.

*THE WICKED DREAMS OF PAULA SCHULTZ*, a Cold War comedy, is the story of a delectable East German star athlete, played by Elke Sommer, who defects to the West and takes refuge in the arms of an American adventurer, after a series of comic episodes.

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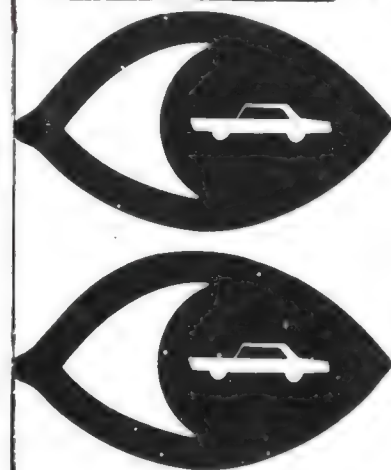
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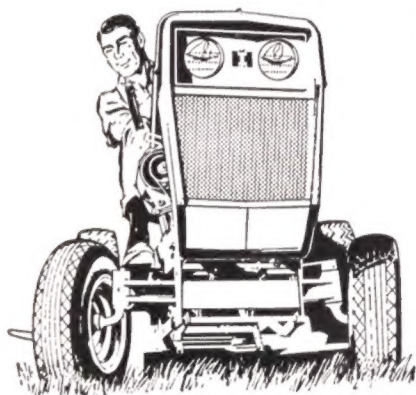


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## RINGING ROCKS CAMPING GROUNDS

(continued from page 11)

other accommodations. He also provides hot showers, modern, clean, toilet facilities, and a laundry with coin-operated washers and dryers. Ringing Rocks Camping Grounds can accommodate travel-trailers up to 21 feet, tents and pickup-campers.

Walter says the whole idea has been "an adventure!" He and his family like camping; they also like to travel, having travelled as far west as California and north to Maine. They have quite a bit of camping experience and background, and keep up with the latest information and camping shows. Walter is an associate member of CAP (Camp Ground Association of Pennsylvania) which keeps him up-to-date on the latest in camp life.

Walter says there are deer and raccoons near the camp. He tells one story — how a raccoon, "friendly little fellow" stole a pot of beans from one camper — and took to the woods. Happily, later, the camper retrieved the pot, "But we're not sure about the beans!"

We asked Walter how he went about planning his camp site. He said that first he put his ideas down on paper with sketches (his overall plan, of course in his mind), but then he just about tore up the original plans and decided to work each site, one at a time, locating them according to the typography of the ground. Because of the large boulders, he has to work around them and try to preserve large trees. Walter is a woodcraft expert and has made his own distinctive signs in the camping area and on the roadways leading to the camping grounds.

The Downs feel that camp life is a splendid way for families to get together. The Downs children seem to know when that time of year is at hand, because, Walter says, "They ask, 'When are we going to the woods?'"

Walter and Edith are natives of Bucks County. They both graduated from Langhorne-Middletown High School. Their children attend schools in the Neshaminy School District.

Mr. Downs says that it takes about a month to six weeks to close the camping grounds and store the equipment after each season. Then, it's to "the boards" for more planning during the winter months. "Perhaps," says Walter, "it may become an all year camp some day."

"Ringing Rocks Camping Grounds" is situated on Revere-Upper Black Eddy Road, and borders on State Game Lands through to Lake Warren, which is State protected. It's a great spot that the downs have picked for their personal camp life, and certainly an ideal location for those who wish to spend a day, a week, or a season.

For Reservations or Information contact:

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### Calendar

(continued from page 3)

- 15-30 **New Hope** — "Lenteboden," living catalog display of early daffodils and tulips. River Rd. Rte. 32 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- 17 **Doylestown** — Mercer Museum. Lecture by Thomas K. Robinson, restorer at Phila. Museum of Art — "American Furniture", the inside story. Pine & Ashland Sts. 10:30 a.m.
- 19 to 27 **New Hope** — The Bucks County Community College Theatre Co. "Cyrano DeBergerac" at the Playhouse. Tues. & Thurs. 7:30, Fri. & Sat. 8:30, Sat. & Sun. 2 p.m. Wed. 10 a.m. None on April 22.
- 20 **Doylestown** — Bucks County Symphony Orchestra, Robert Jordan, soloist, Beethoven's Piano Concerto no. 5. Lenape Jr. High School, Rte. 202. 8:30 p.m.
- 21 **Easter Sunday**
- 27 **Yardley** — Colonial Yardley, Open House tour.
- 24 **Doylestown** — Mercer Museum, "Collecting Antiques for Pleasure," "American Furniture and Silver" by Robert S. Stuart, 10:30 a.m. Pine and Ashland Sts.
- 24 **Langhorne** — 17th annual concert, Tri-County Band of Feasterville, Evelyn McLean, soprano soloist and the Singing Squires, from Hartsville. Neshaminy High School auditorium, 8 p.m.
- 30 **New Hope** — The Bucks County Community College Theatre Co. presents "Stop the World I Want to Get Off." The Playhouse. 7:30 p.m.

## D-STUDIO —

### Artistry in a Barn

A striking new Bucks County art center opened last summer in Stover Centennial Barn at Point Pleasant, Pa.

Known as D-Studio, the gallery is an example of what can be done with a derelict barn, a bit of imagination, and plenty of cash. It boasts over 2300 square feet of exhibit space and a ceiling that soars to a height of 50 feet.

The imagination and cash were furnished by Domingo Izquierdo, a young, internationally-known metal-sculptor and painter. Born in Puerto Rico, he was moved to New York City at the age of three, where he grew up in an artistic household. At the age of 24, he had his first one-man show in New York, then spent 2 and a half years in Rome on a John Hay Whitney award. While in Europe, he had exhibits in Rome and Paris. Today he divides his time between Bucks County and Puerto Rico, and his work can be seen at galleries in New York, Philadelphia, and San Juan, P.R.

Three years ago, Izquierdo bought the Centennial Barn, had it structurally overhauled, being careful to retain its original roughhewn character. A mezzanine gallery has been added, and high windows set into the north and south walls for natural lighting.



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